THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The number of soldiers killed in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East during the last 4 years is as under-

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005
No. of Soldiers Killed	254	241	187	136

A concept plan for the National War Memorial which envisages location at India Gate Complex has been presented before Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC). Identification and providing the site for the proposed structure, which involves decision/clearance by various agencies is not within the control of Ministry of Defence.

Less Air Crashes during 2005

341. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the Indian Air Force, the year 2005 is the safest year during the last 36 years since it has recorded only 10 crashes in 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry evolved/studied the reasons behind this so that the same could be followed; and

(c) whether this can put IAF at par with the safest operational air forces in the world?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the financial year 2005-2006, till date, a total of nine accidents have been reported which is the safest record in the history of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

(b) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

(c) The IAF is moving towards achieving the flight safety standards of the advanced Air Forces of the world and it is a continuing exercise.